Import of Silk from China

1877. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has put a stop to import of silk from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total silk imported from China during the last three years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total silk imported from China during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given below:

Year	*Qty (MT)*	*Value*	
		Crore Rs.	*Mn. US $*
2002-03	7214	516.29	106.69
2003-04	7576	520.33	113.21
2004-05 (Provisional)	7210	553.07	123.10

Development of silk industry

1878. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the promotion and development of silk industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry

have been instituted and are being implemented. The important once are:—

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped upto improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;
- Seed Support and Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers and reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;
- Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored and Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon and silk testing systems;
- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through Central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.;
- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available *inter alia* to silk sector.
- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the Tenth Plan for the Sericulture sector to support and above strategy and programmes;
- Export of value added silk items is being encouraged through assistance to exporters for participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, market research and surveys, etc.